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978-1-108-08174-0 - A Concise History of the Entire Abolition of Mechanical Restraint in the Treatment of the Insane: And of the Introduction, Success, and Final Triumph of the Non-Restraint System

Robert Gardiner Hill

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It is sobering to realise that as recently as the year in which *On the Origin of Species* was published, learned opinion was that diseases such as typhus and cholera were spread by a 'miasma', and suggestions that doctors should wash their hands before examining patients were greeted with mockery by the profession. The Cambridge Library Collection reissues milestone publications in the history of Western medicine as well as studies of other medical traditions. Its coverage ranges from Galen on anatomical procedures to Florence Nightingale's common-sense advice to nurses, and includes early research into genetics and mental health, colonial reports on tropical diseases, documents on public health and military medicine, and publications on spa culture and medicinal plants.

A Concise History of the Entire Abolition of Mechanical Restraint in the Treatment of the Insane

The most famous nineteenth-century British reformer of care for the mentally ill and disabled was undoubtedly John Conolly, whose 1856 *Treatment of the Insane without Mechanical Restraints* is also reissued in this series. However, Conolly's work at the Hanwell Asylum near London was based in part on the pioneering efforts of Edward Parker Charlesworth (1781–1853) and his younger colleague Robert Gardiner Hill (1811–78), who had already (and controversially) abolished physical restraint in the Lincoln Asylum by 1838. Conolly is known to have visited and been impressed by the Lincoln hospital, but his supporters, and his own book, suggested his primacy in the field, and Hill published this work in 1857 in order to refute Conolly's claims. The first part consists of Hill's account of his and Charlesworth's reforms at Lincoln, and the second reprints many of the letters and pamphlets which focused on the topic during this period.

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A CONCISE HISTORY
OF THE
Entire Abolition of Mechanical Restraint
IN THE
TREATMENT OF THE INSANE;
AND OF THE
INTRODUCTION, SUCCESS, AND FINAL TRIUMPH
OF THE
NON-RESTRAINT SYSTEM:

TOGETHER WITH

A REPRINT OF A LECTURE DELIVERED ON THE SUBJECT
IN THE YEAR 1838;

AND APPENDICES,

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE CONTROVERSIES AND
CLAIMS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

BY

ROBERT GARDINER HILL, F.S.A.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, ENGLAND;
LATE ONE OF THE VISITORS OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM;
AND FORMERLY RESIDENT MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE LINCOLN
LUNATIC ASYLUM.

LONDON:

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS,

PATERNOSTER ROW.

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TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND,

THE LEGAL PROTECTOR OF THE INSANE,

THE FOLLOWING PAGES

ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED BY

THE AUTHOR.

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P R E F A C E.



IN the following pages will be found a condensed but faithful statement of the origin and progress of the non-restraint system in lunacy, and the controversies connected with that origin. The system itself has triumphed over all opposition; and the claims of its Author have been universally acknowledged wherever the evidence of those claims has been accessible. The publication of the documents here brought forward seemed therefore only an act of duty, and the opportunity which it afforded for the expression of the Author's opinions upon important points connected with the judicious management of the insane, was not to be lost sight of. If the remarks here put forth shall tend in any degree to the amelioration of the condition of the insane, the object of the Author will be fully answered.

WYKE-HOUSE ASYLUM, and
INVERNESS LODGE, BRENTFORD.

May 4th, 1857.

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C O N T E N T S.



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Appendix (A.)—Opinions of Dr Charlesworth upon the subject of restraint *prior* to the Author's connection with the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum in July, 1835.

Appendix (B.)—Proceedings of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum with reference to non-restraint, and opinions of Dr Charlesworth on the subject, *subsequently* to the Author's connection with that Institution.—Publication of Reviews of the Author's Lecture, &c.

Appendix (C.)—Extraordinary attack upon the Author's claims as the originator of the non-restraint system, by Sir Edward Ffrench Bromhead, Bart., a Vice-President of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, in direct opposition to all his own previous testimony; and replies thereto.

Appendix (D.)—Similar attack by the Rev. W. M. Pierce, a Governor of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, also in direct opposition to all his own previous testimony; and replies thereto.—Insidious and indirect support of the attack by Dr Charlesworth, contrary to all his former statements.

Appendix (E.)—Another extraordinary and inconsistent attack by the Editor of the *Lancet*, in direct opposition to all his previous testimony.—Speeches of Richard Suttan Harvey, Esq., and Richard Mason, Esq., Governors of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, upon the sudden

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and violent opposition of the *Lancet*, of Nov. 5th, 1853. Refusal of the Editor of the *Lancet* to insert the Author's replies.—Opinions of the *Stamford Mercury*, (local County paper,) and of the Editor of the *Medical Circular*.—Letters of Drs Wingett and H. van Leeuwen.

Appendix (F).—Testimony of the *Lancet* from 1840 to 1852, in favour of the Author's claims.—Testimony of Richard Mason, Esq., late Town Clerk of Lincoln, and a Governor of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum.

Appendix (G).—Cases of the two patients under treatment at the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum during the period of the Mitigation System, referred to in the historical sketch.